

THE DAILY MORNING, AUGUST 31, 1888.

TRUE INDICATRSES OF THE WANTON AFFAIR.

As mentioned in a previous article, to the soldiers and the people of Wasco county, that they were awaiting the statement of the First Lieutenant, the republican party of Wasco county, to ascertain the cause of the discrediting course of Col. Lang, chairman of the republican county committee. That the First Lieutenant's statement of the case was incorrect, or also that the usurpation of Lang was inspired by some far-reaching purpose which was kept concealed from the actors; for nothing short of that could account for a course of conduct so at variance with all party usage and all traditions of the party itself, on the part of one occupying a position of trust and confidence in the organization. We should have been glad to find that the *Times-Mountaineer*, in the excitement of the occasion, had overdrawn the picture, but the investigations of the agent sent by the Oregonian to the scene of action resulted in showing that the *Dallas* paper, though correct as it went, drew it rather milder than the actual facts. Our agent, not disclosing his purpose or his connection with this paper, sought opportunity to converse with various persons somewhat prominently concerned on both sides of the dispute, and found all to concur substantially in the main points, all agreeing that Lang's action was without a decent pretense of authority, in defiance of all party usage and a gross insult to the rest of the committee; yet his candidate is going to a very considerable following in the republican party, and a heavy buying among democrats. Some of the leading democratic politicians—notably Vice, Ferry, and Judge Savage—are understood to be working hard for the nomination of Lang's candidate, and against the regular nominee of their own party. In addition to this, two sensitive democratic workers of Multnomah county have gone to Wasco in the interest of Mr. Dufur, the Lang candidate, and are engaged in working up the county precincts where it has been supposed the vote at a special election would be light unless special efforts were made to get the voters out to the polling places. It is considered possible by some of the most sagacious observers of men and of Dallas, that with the assistance of these democratic auxiliaries, Dufur may be elected, though it seems to be decided on all hands that the greater part of the republicans would have voted for Mr. Smith if he had not withdrawn.

Lang's action in nominating a candidate without consulting a single one of the other twenty-four members of the county committee was very remarkable, but not marvelously so, for the republican party, the political house he has drifted to, is the most notorious in the country for its swindlers, and there are ten thousand swindlers and camp followers belonging to the republican party than follow Sherman's host out of Atlanta to march to the sea. These elements, so long as they are controlled, are a sign simply of its power, not of the principles of a party. But if they once gain the control, then it is as when the barbarians swarmed down upon Rome. Then the party is given up to pillage and its holiest altars are defiled. Those to whom the integrity of the party in Oregon is entrusted should be careful! If there is any camp follower or banner harassing himself to the front, his passport of character should be demanded; if there is any one who is clamoring for a place of distinction, he should be questioned closely as to his record both as a public servant and as a private citizen, and if all is not satisfactory, he should be held in abeyance until such time as he can stand unaided to the rear. If a man with head altogether soft and mind as thin as a reed for conscience sake, he should resign. The republican record of these great party are determined to do nothing to dim the shining scroll.

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If the government recognized and capital and labor be harmonized, no fears for the future need be entertained. Because of the nation's rapid growth, Dr. Abbott thinks, it is the one who will effectively serve his purpose. Personal strife between capital and labor is detrimental to both and should not be permitted.

He adds, "I am a erratic, impractical, conceited person, who has always wished whatever he has taken hold of, but in this case he is not so much a chauvinist as they imagine who attribute his arbitrary course to personal pique at the action of the convention last spring. There is method in his madness. Even his tergiversations after the committee met and nominated Mr. Smith had all the system and purpose of the first step in his holding out. He is setting under instructions, and can not take a straight course in any direction. The grandiloquence of the committee on the senatorial question, and the fact that the committee nominated a man who was generally understood to be friendly to Mitchell's election, and pledged him to abide by the caucus nomination in that matter. Nobody was doing or attempting anything in regard to the senatorial election, and nobody would have objected seriously to Dufur if the manner of his nomination had not shocked them into a realization of the extent to which "boss" dictation was being forced upon them.

We have given the result of inquiries made with a view of getting at the exact facts and the explanation of them. As we said before, Lang's conduct is condemned by nearly everybody and still, as Mr. Smith has declined, to repudiate it, it is thought, will generally vote for Dufur in preference to a democrat. The master, our agent says, has kept a very lively fire breathing among the voting people at The Dalles for some days, but there is really less ill-feeling than might be expected, and it is believed republicans generally will wait for the irregularity of Lang's proceedings, and let the result he effected there, and let the public man, rather than the committee, decide what is to be done, to get on a regular candidate to reach the remote precincts with tickets and information. Thus "bossism" triumphs in Wasco county, and the republican voters cast their votes rather than go outside to smash the machine. The *Oregonian*'s agent suggested to a gentleman at The Dalles who was formerly somewhat conspicuous in independent politics in Oregon, that there ought to be some effort enough among republicans to "cut down" on this outrage. The reply was: "Col. Lang's action is simply a usurpation, but Dufur is not a bad man, and he is a republican. I shall support him if Smith withdraws, and I think that will be the course pursued by republicans generally."

ON THE WATCH-TOWERS.

That was a ringing tribute when, Ferguson, Blane and myself, the编辑者 of the *Times-Mountaineer*, were in Portland, Maine, to represent our paper. And it was a hearty one. The local republican party was then in full swing and Summer was fired upon, the last shot was fired behind the salient curtain which shaded that mighty shouting curtain which the young mother feels she has between her and death, knowledge to let her that she has brought to her son. There was anguish, there was a mighty faintness in the heart of each, there was a feeling as though death had come; but beneath all there was a thrilling hope that the reprieve of hours never was about to be removed from

our numbers, that the world was about to be saved, and that after the storm, there would be safety, those who would be lost would on a new basis start forward upon a future in which there would not be a cloud of one instant of storm. And when we study minutely the history of what has succeeded when we think of what has been accomplished in two or three years, then we find that no paragraph can magnify the wonderful story, and the arrangement of the human estate partly by distinguished men of Maine are deserved. We are quite aware that there are no friends in the democratic ranks, but as the spokesman which attended to the memory of a great crime related to the entire nation, no one could feel that after the trial of the *Amelia Earhart* and the *White Star Liner*, that the democratic party of the south had disgraced itself and to do justice to the memory of the south, the south must do justice to the north. The *Times-Mountaineer* is the only newspaper in the state which has not been inspired by the spirit of the *Amelia Earhart*, for nothing short of that could account for a course of conduct so at variance with all party usage and all traditions of the party itself, on the part of one occupying a position of trust and confidence in the organization. We should have been glad to find that the *Times-Mountaineer*, in the excitement of the occasion, had overdrawn the picture, but the investigations of the agent sent by the Oregonian to the scene of action resulted in showing that the *Dallas* paper, though correct as it went, drew it rather milder than the actual facts. Our agent, not disclosing his purpose or his connection with this paper, sought opportunity to converse with various persons somewhat prominently concerned on both sides of the dispute, and found all to concur substantially in the main points, all agreeing that Lang's action was without a decent pretense of authority, in defiance of all party usage and a gross insult to the rest of the committee; yet his candidate is going to a very considerable following in the republican party, and a heavy buying among democrats. Some of the leading democratic politicians—notably Vice, Ferry, and Judge Savage—are understood to be working hard for the nomination of Lang's candidate, and against the regular nominee of their own party. In addition to this, two sensitive democratic workers of Multnomah county have gone to Wasco in the interest of Mr. Dufur, the Lang candidate, and are engaged in working up the county precincts where it has been supposed the vote at a special election would be light unless special efforts were made to get the voters out to the polling places. It is considered possible by some of the most sagacious observers of men and of Dallas, that with the assistance of these democratic auxiliaries, Dufur may be elected, though it seems to be decided on all hands that the greater part of the republicans would have voted for Mr. Smith if he had not withdrawn.

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